

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 September 2005 (01.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/081213 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G09G 3/30**,
3/20, H03K 17/955

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2005/000604

(22) International Filing Date:
18 February 2005 (18.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0403853.5 20 February 2004 (20.02.2004) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

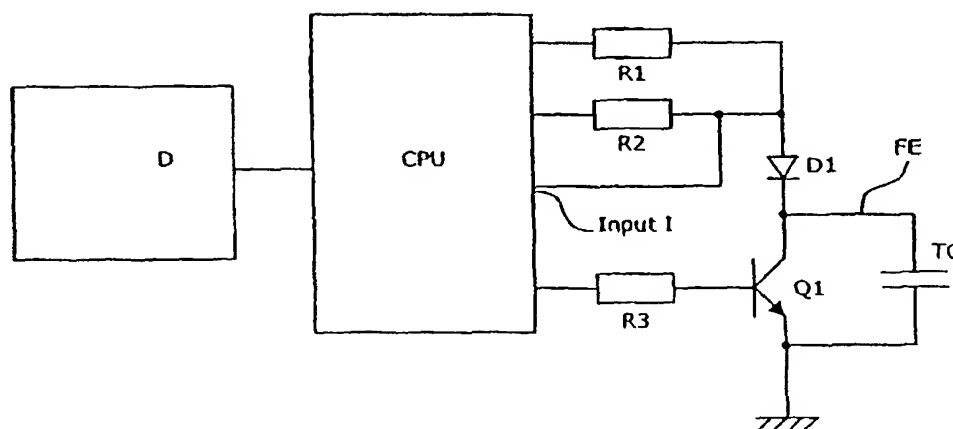
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
23 February 2006

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DISPLAY ACTIVATED BY THE PRESENCE OF A USER



(57) Abstract: A display, typically an electroluminescent display, of the type having both an activated, "on", state and an inactivated, "off", state, and being switchable between the two, which display incorporates a capacitance sensor, able to detect the near presence of a user, together with means able to utilise the output of this sensor to effect activation of the display accordingly. Preferably, the capacitance sensor comprises a pair of electrodes, one of which may be a front electrode of the electroluminescent display. The capacitance may be sensed by determining the time taken to charge a capacitance; the capacitance may be charged at two or more rates so as to decrease the time taken to measure the capacitance and so reduce the energy consumed.

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